The People's Korea

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SPA Elections: 100 Percent Voter Turnout & 100 Percent Yes Votes

President Kim Il Sung, His Sole Heir Kim Jong Il Unanimously Returned

President Kim Il Sung and his sole heir Mr. Kim Jong Il were unanimously elected for the 7th Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) on Feb. 28, the official KCNA reported on Mar. 1, quoting the Central Election Committee announcement. Earlier the same day 100 percent of the registered electors took part in voting except those on foreign trips, and all of them cast yes votes.

The KCNA said that the chief executive and the heir were elected respectively by Tokchon constituency No. 181, South Pyongan Province, and the Songjin constituency No. 501, North Hwanghae Province.

Vice-Presidents Kim Il and Kang Ryang Uk, Minister of the People's Armed Forces O Jin U and other Members and Alternate Members of the Political Bureau of the CC of the WPK, were also returned, the KCNA said.

The parliamentary elections, the KCNA said, "powerfully demonstrated to the world once again the indestructible political and ideological unity and revolutionary cohesion" of the Korean people closely rallied around President Kim Il Sung.

Among those returned were seven high-ranking officials of the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) including its Chairman Han Duk Su and two vice-chairmen, the KCNA added.

President Kim Il Sung on Feb. 28 cast a ballot at the polling station of sub-constituency No. 28, constituency No. 123 for the parliamentary elections.

The chief executive received a ballot from the Chairman of the Sub-Constituency Election Committee and cast it for Labor Hero Ro Jong Hui, Chairman of the Management Board of the Sinsong Cooperative Farm, Pyongwon county.

President Kim Il Sung was accompanied by Vice-President Kim Il, heir Kim Jong Il, Minister of the PAF O Jin U, Premier Li Jong Ok and other Members and Alternate Members of the WPK Politburo, the KCNA added.

President Kim Il Sung on Feb. 28 cast a ballot at the polling station of sub-constituency No. 28, constituency No. 123 for the 7th SPA elections. (KCNA radiophoto)

Social Bodies Call for Early 100-Man Joint Consultative Conf.

Various organizations of the DPRK, including a political party and two government ministries, of late, have urged the Seoul junta led by Gen. Chon Du Hwan to sincerely respond to the statement made public by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland on convocation of a 100-man joint consultative conference for national reintegration.

In the statements made public by their spokesmen, the organizations emphasized the necessity of an early convocation of the conference of politicians in north and south and abroad.

The organizations, which had published a statement on this question by Feb. 24, include: The Korean Social Democratic Party (KSDP) on Feb. 16; the Fisheries Commission (FS) on Feb. 19; the Ministry of Communications (MC) on Feb. 19; the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) on Feb. 20; the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK) on Feb. 21; the Ministry of Culture and Art (MCA) on Feb. 23; the Korean Journalists Union (KJU) on Feb. 23; and the Agricultural Commission (AC) on Feb. 24.

The following are highlights of the statements:

KSDP

Referring to the characteristics of the proposed joint conference, the KSDP said in the statement: "If the proposed north-south dialogue is to be a genuine negotiation for reunification, it should be a broad one embracing patriotic personages of various circles desiring reunification, excluding the present south Korean rulers who seek to ensure a permanent split of the country."

The KSDP defined certain political parties and organizations of south Korea as not being qualified to participate in the negotiation, because "they are hand in glove with the present ruler and act as his cat's-paws."

FC

Recalling its effort made in the past to realize collaboration and intercourse with Seoul in the domain of fisheries, a spokesman of the Fisheries Commission said that "we put forward more than 40 proposals on 20 occasions to the south Korean authorities and organs concerned to achieve a uniform development of the country's fisheries and promote the cause of national reunification in this way."

The spokesman said the proposals included those to enable south Korean fishermen to engage in fishing operations in the territorial waters of the DPRK, open the fishing grounds of the north and the south to all Korean fishermen and ensure free fishing operations for them.

"However," the spokesman said, "the successive south Korean rulers rejected our proposals each time on various pretexts."

MC

The spokesman of the Ministry of

(Continued on page 8)

6 Air Space Violations by SR-71s Feb. 14-20

Acts of aerial espionage against the DPRK by U.S. spy planes SR-71s numbered as many as 6 from Feb. 14 to Feb. 20, the official KCNA reported on Feb. 22.

Reporting on frequent air space violations by high-altitude reconnaissance planes, the KCNA said that a high-flying photo-taking SR-71 flew into the DPRK sky above "Kangryong Peninsula" south-east of S. Hwanghae Prov. "from 9 hours 44 minutes to 10 hours 4 minutes on February 22."

"At around 11 hours 36 minutes," the same spy plane flew into the sky above the DPRK territorial waters east of Tongchon, Kangwon Province," the KCNA added.

Earlier, on Feb. 20, a KCNA broadcast disclosed another air space violation by an SR-71. A KCNA broadcast monitored here on the same day said that the high-flying spy plane flew into the air "east of Kosong, Kangwon Prov." flying up to the air above the coastal sea off "Musudan, North Hamgyong Prov., and Chongjin from 11 hours 15 minutes to 25 minutes on Feb. 20".

KCNA reports on Feb. 20 and 22 pointed out the aerial espionage acts by SR-71s are becoming ever more frequent "after the U.S. introduced a large number of armed forces into south Korea to stage the current U.S.-south Korea combined war game dubbed "Team Spirit '82", the largest ever staged by a Western country, aiming at simulating attacks on the DPRK.

The frequent aerial espionage acts by SR-71s forced Pyongyang to warn the U.S., "If they continue to violate the sovereignty of our people and persist in their adventurous war policy, defying our repeated warnings, they (the U.S. authorities) will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from this." (Feb. 20 KCNA broadcast)

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Building of Socialist Economy and Its Development (4)

II. Democratic Reforms

(Continued from the No. 4000 issue of The People's Korea)

Land Reform

According to the policy line of the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal democratic revolution, the National People's Committee of North Korea, a people's democratic government, was established and democratic reforms were carried out under its leadership.

The Provisional People's Committee regarded land reform as a task of highest priority for the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal democratic revolution in Korea. This was because of the fact that millions of farmers suffered from exploitation under the feudalistic landownership and this prevented not only agricultural development but also democratic development of Korean society.

Immediately after liberation, landlords, who accounted for only 4 percent of the total households, owned 52.8 percent of the total arable land, while a great number of peasants accounting for nearly 80 percent of the total population, were either landless peasants or peasants with small plots of land.

The Provisional People's Committee prepared preconditions for land reform. On January 31, 1946, farmers unions, the nucleus of the revolution, were organized, and a struggle for a 3:7 system of tenancy started in the autumn of 1945. In the course of this struggle, the political consciousness and enthusiasm of farmers were greatly raised. This led the farmers to a movement for petitions for their own land. About 50,000 letters demanding distribution of land to peasants were sent by farmers to the Central Committee of the North Korean Communist Party. At the end of February 1946, over 300 representatives of farmers from various rural areas of the country visited the Central Committee of the Provisional People's Committee to express their earnest demand for land. That year, at a memorial meeting of the March 1 Uprising, more than 3 million farmers demonstrated, demanding land.

In this situation, the Land Reform Law was proclaimed on March 5, 1946. The Land Reform Law laid down the following principles:

1. All lands owned by Japanese and traitors to the nation, land still leased to peasants, land of Korean landlords who own more than five *chongbo* (one *chongbo* is approximately one hectare) and land of religious bodies, shall be confiscated.

2. In distributing the confiscated land, the land shall be given to hired peasants, landless peasants and peasants who own only small plots of land as their permanent possession, but distribution will be made in proportion to the number of family members and working members of the peasant family.

3. All debts of hired and other peasants owing to landlords whose land is confiscated are cancelled, and buildings, cattle, agricultural tools, facilities and other assets of the landlords shall be confiscated and most of them distributed to the hired peasants and landless peasants.

4. All confiscation and distribution shall be made without compensation.

5. Sale, purchase, lease, mortgaging of land thus distributed, shall be prohibited.

6. Orchards, irrigation facilities, mountains and forests and special parts of land which are not suitable for distribution to peasants shall be transferred to state control.

Land owned by Japanese traitors in the nation, land tenanted to farmers, land of those Korean landlords who owned more than five *chongbo* and land owned by religious bodies was designated as land to be confiscated by the government.

Confiscation of all leased land amounting to 621,489 *chongbo* was aimed at completely liquidating the tenant farming system.

It was of great importance that land owned by those landlords who owned more than 5 *chongbo* of land was confiscated. This was carried out to prevent a resurgence of rich farmers. If the limit to landownership had been set at 8–10 *chongbo* or if landlords had been allowed to have a part of their land which they owned before, some landlords would have been saved from land confiscation or others would have only a small part of their land confiscated. This would have enabled landlords to continue to exploit farmers.

However, the government did not confiscated land indiscriminately. Article 2 of the Land Reform Law provided that if a landlord owned over 5 *chongbo* of land, and if he cultivated a part of that land by himself, tenanting the other part of land to peasants, he had only the land leased to peasants confiscated. Moreover, if a landlord owned only 5 *chongbo* of land and cultivated all the land by himself, he was exempted from land confiscation.

The government also followed the policy of confiscating without compensation and of free distribution. This policy meant complete liquidation of the economic base of landlords, eliminating class differences between farmers and landlords and doing away with the landlord system. If land had been distributed with compensation, landlords who would have received payment for their land would have continued to exploit farmers with the money in a capitalist way instead of in a feudalistic way. This would have provided an economic base for landlords.

In the days of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle, all the anti-Japanese forces had to be united. So, only the land owned by pro-Japanese landlords was considered the object of confiscation. However, this could not be applied in a situation in which an all-round democratization of society is required. After the liberation, landlords opposed all the democratic reforms, trying to maintain the feudalistic system of exploitation. These landlords had to be completely liquidated in a society developing toward democracy. Confiscation without compensation and free land distribution satisfied Korean farmers' earnest desire, as it abolished the landlord class and provided farmers with land.

The peasants were provided with land but were prohibited from the sale, purchase, mortgaging and leasing of distributed land.

As a result of Land Reform, most peasants became small land-owning tillers. Generally, where landlords and capitalists have power, small-scale farming is not developed, due to the capitalist relations of commodities and currency which penetrate small-scale farming. Land holdings of farmers are gradually taken over by landlords and rich farmers. Through land purchase, land is concentrated on a small number of landlords and rich farmers, while a large majority of farmers are forced into poverty and backwardness.

However, when political power is in the hands of the masses of people, including workers, and when the important means of production belong to the people, such a class differentiation in rural areas is prevented. If land purchase and sale is allowed, class differentiation becomes unavoidable in small-scale farming, and this could revive the old tenant farming system. This was why the government prohibited the sale, purchase, mortgaging and leasing of distributed land.

The policy of restricting the development of rich farms was adopted for the Land Reform. This was of great significance in strengthening Land Reform, rapidly promoting peasants' living standard and in continuously developing revolution in the rural areas. Rich farmers were allowed to hire labourers seasonally but prohibited from their regular employment, as well as from acts of unlimited exploitation. If their acts of exploitation had not been restricted, and if rich farming had developed, a great obstacle would have been placed in accomplishing socialist reforms in agriculture.

According to the above-mentioned policy, Land Reform was rapidly carried out in all the rural areas of the northern half of the Republic. Land confiscated without compensation totaled 1,000,325 *chongbo*. Out of this land, 981,390 *chongbo* was provided to tenant farmers, landless farmers and farmers who owned only small plots of land. The total confiscated land accounted for 53 percent of the total arable land of the country, while 95 percent of the leased land was confiscated. More than 70 percent of the total rural households were provided with land by the government. With land, 14,477 buildings, which had belonged to Japanese, traitors and to landlords, were confiscated. Large buildings were used as schools, state office buildings and public buildings. Medium and small buildings, 4,774 cows, oxen and horses, farming implements and various other farming facilities were provided to tenant farmers and poor farmers. About 2,692 *chongbo* of orchards, irrigation facilities in 1,165 places and 3,432,986 *chongbo* of forests were nationalized. The feudalistic landownership and the tenant farming system which had fettered Korean farmers to land for thousands of years, were completely abolished.

Land Reform in the Republic had some characteristic features.

First, it was carried out in a very short period of time without facing strong resistance from reactionary elements. Bourgeois reform reorganizes feudalistic relations of production into capitalist ones, in most cases leaving the landlord class intact and guaranteeing their interests. Even in the course of this bourgeois reform, there arises various opposition among the landlords – the main element of the feudalistic forces. Strong resistance is common in the course of a revolutionary land reform which eliminates feudalistic landownership and feudalistic relations of exploitation.

However, north Korea did not suffer such strong opposition from landlords and completed Land Reform in only about 20 days. This was because just after the liberation, in the struggle to overthrow the reactionary forces, most pro-Japanese reactionary landlords had been eliminated and others had fled to south Korea. Those landlords who remain in the northern part (with over 5 *chongbo* of land) numbered only 44,000 and were powerless.

Another important factor for the successful accomplishment of Land Reform was that the government made landlords move to other rural areas, in order to disperse them and weaken their forces.

Workers' support for land reform also was a reliable force for farmers.

Many socialist countries in East Europe, including Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Albania, completed land reform in two or three stages spread over several years. China also took 4 years to finish land reform. Compared with land reform in other countries, about 20 days needed in north Korea is surprisingly short.

The second characteristic feature is that Land Reform was carried out thoroughly. This is clear, first of all, from complete liquidation of landlords. There was no possibility for landlords to become even rich farmers.

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea confiscated not only all the land owned by Japanese, traitors, but also that of landlords owning more than 5 *chongbo* of land. Moreover, it confiscated all the means of production and property they had, including livestock, farming implements, buildings and cereals in stock.

In East European socialist countries, land owned by enemies of the revolution, traitors, war criminals and fascists was confiscated together with their property. However, landlords were allowed to have a maximum of 50 hectares of land (In Bulgaria 20–30 hectares and Albania 20–40 hectares). In addition, tenant farming was permitted with some restrictions.

The principles of confiscation without compensation and free distribution also show the thoroughness of Land Reform. Among the socialist countries, some carried out confiscation without compensation (Rumania, Albania) but many other countries confiscated land with compensation. Poland paid money equal to a monthly salary of a low-ranking government office worker to each landlord whose land was confiscated, and Czechoslovakia paid securities according to the average land values in ten years before land was expropriated from its owner, or to standard prices based on the land values at the time the land was expropriated.

In these countries land was distributed with compensation, too. Distribution prices were based on yearly profits from the crops from the land (Poland, Rumania) or 10 % lower than the expropriation price (Czechoslovakia). In China, land owned by landlords was confiscated without compensation, but in the case of rich farmers, only their tenanted land was confiscated with compensation.

The solution of the problem of landownership also proves the thoroughness of Land Reform. The maximum limit of land holdings was 5 *chongbo* and the purchase and tenanting of distributed land was prohibited. Land which landowners could not cultivate themselves, was nationalized. These measures completely eliminated possibility of revival of the tenant farming system. By contrast, other socialist countries allowed the purchase and leasing of distributed land for several years after land reform.

What was the main factor for completion of Land Reform in a short period of time? That is the fact that the situation in north Korea was very much favorable to the revolutionary forces and that Korea had special social economic conditions – the farming scale was very small, rich farms were prevented from development and capitalist farming was hardly developed.

After the Land Reform, the Provisional People's Committee fully supported agriculture, by providing cows, oxen, farming implements, seeds and fertilizers, in order to strengthen the successes of Land Reform. Particulary, on June 27, 1946, the government proclaimed the Law on Agricultural Tax in Kind which liberated farmers from all taxes, and which only obligated them to deliver 25 percent of products to the state.

Korean peasants were completely liberated from all farm rents and any other heavy burdens. This greatly contributed to heightening farmers'zeal for production, and to strengthening and developing the results of Land Reform.

Land Reform and related measures taken by the state after the reform provided conditions for developing agricultural production. On a scale of 100 for 1946, grain production grew 39.1 percent in 1949, cotton production 400.5 percent, cows 66.9 percent and pigs 196.6 percent.

Not only production but farmers' material and cultural living standard was rapidly improved. As of 1949, of the sampled 2,466 rural houses, 18 percent were new ones which had been built within three years after Land Reform. About 628 oxen were bought by these rural households. The number of primary schools in the rural areas throughout the country increased 7 times that of 1944. Library and club rooms rose 48 times and the number of primary school pupils increased 2.5 times, that of junior high school students 2.5 times and that of high school students 10 times. Univesity students jumped 6 times in number.(To be continued)

LAND CONFISCATED & DISTRIBUTED IN LAND REFORM

Those Dispossessed/Chongbo		Recipients/Chongbo	
Japan, Japanese	112,623	Tenant Peasants	22,387
Traitors, Escapees	13,272	Landless Peasants	603,407
Landlords with over 5 chongbo	237,746	Peasants with small plots of land	345,974
Landowners with all their land leased	263,436	Ex-landlords moved to other places after the reform	9,622
Landowners with parts of their land leased	358,053	TOTAL	981,390
Religious Bodies	15,195	State	18,935
TOTAL	1,000,325		

Source: Statistics of the National Economic Development of the DPRK 1946–1960

Okinawa National Juche Forum

A National Forum on the Juche Idea and Okinawa was held at the Pacific Hotel in Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture, on Feb. 13 in commemoration of the 70th birthday of President Kim Il Sung and the 40th birthday of Mr. Kim Jong Il, under the sponsorship of the National Liaison Council of the Societies for the Study of the Works of President Kim Il Sung and the Working Committee for the Forum in Okinawa Prefecture.

It was attended by prominent scholars, men of culture, workers, youth and students and ordinary people from all parts of Japan from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south, 270 in all.

At the forum, letters to President Kim Il Sung and Mr. Kim Jong Il were adopted.

An opening address was made by Tamaki Yukio, Secretary-General of the Council of Workers' Unions of Okinawa Prefecture.

Taira Ryosho, Mayor of Naha City and Chairman of the Japan-Korea Association of People of Okinawa Prefecture, spoke first at the meeting on behalf of the sponsors.

He was followed by Paek Chong Won, Chief of the International Bureau of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan *(Chongryun)* and Miyagawa Takeo, Director of International Research Institute of the Juche Idea invited as guests.

Congratulatory telegrams addressed to the forum were read. They were from the Korean Liaison Association of Foreign Culture; the Korean Association of the Social Scientists; Makieda Motofumi, Chairman of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (Sohyo); Minobe Ryokichi, Member of the House of Councilors; Iwai Akira, Secretary-General of the Japan Committee Supporting the Independent Peaceful Reunification of Korea; Shimizu Sumiko, Secretary-General of the Japan Women's Council; Uehara Kosuke, Socialist Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of its Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters, and others.

Then, a keynote report made by Hanawa Fujio, Secretary-General of the National Liaison Council of the Societies of the Study of the Works of President Kim Il Sung, on the "Activity in the Past 10 years of the National Liaison Council of the Societies for the Study of the Works of President Kim Il Sung and Our Duty."

A commemorative lecture was given by Sakugawa Seiichi, professor at Okinawa University, on the "Juche Idea and the Future of Okinawa", which was followed by a special report made by Ogami Kenichi, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Japan Society for the Study of Kimilsungism, on "Greeting the 40th Birthday of Our Dear Secretary Kim Jong Il."

Study reports were made by Tsukiyama Yasuko, member of the Okinawa Women Society for the Study of the Juche Idea, on the "Theory of Man in the Juche Idea", Minei Masakazu, Chief Secretary of the Okinawa Teachers' Union, on the "Theses on Socialist Education", and by Kamiyama Misao, chairman of the head office of the Okinawa district of the All Japan Garrison Forces Labor Union on the "Role Which the Okinawa Labor Movement Plays for Korea's Reunification."

Hiyane Seiichi, Chairman of the Okinawa Teachers' Union, made a closing address in which he expressed his firm resolution to make a deep study of the great Juche idea, which is leading the fighting people to victory and to expand widely the organizations for the study of the Juche idea in Okinawa.

A banquet commemorating the 70th birthday of President Kim Il Sung and the 40th birthday of Mr. Kim Jong Il, was held after the meeting.

A National Forum on the Juche Idea and Okinawa was held in Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture, the southern most island of Japan, on Feb. 13 in commemoration of the 70th birthday of President Kim Il Sung and the 40th birthday of Mr. Kim Jong Il.

Fourth National Meeting of Japan Kimilsungism Society

The 4th National Committee Meeting of the Japan Society for the Study of Kimilsungism was held at the Shimpo Publication Hall in Naha City, on Feb. 14, with more than 100 delegates attending, in commemoration of the 40th birthday of Mr. Kim Jong Il.

At the meeting, a letter to Mr. Kim Jong Il was adopted.

Congratulatory speeches were made by Miyagawa Takeo and Kim Su Sop, Chairman of the Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters of *Chongryun*.

Then Ogami Kenichi made a keynote report.

He said in the report that activities for the study of the Juche idea are being organized widely and are on a high level, thanks to favourable conditions for the activity for the study provided by the formation of the Japan Society for the Study of Kimilsungism in May, 1981.

He also stressed that not only does he study the Juche idea, but also makes the best use of it in actual life and that he is developing the organization into a man-based body.

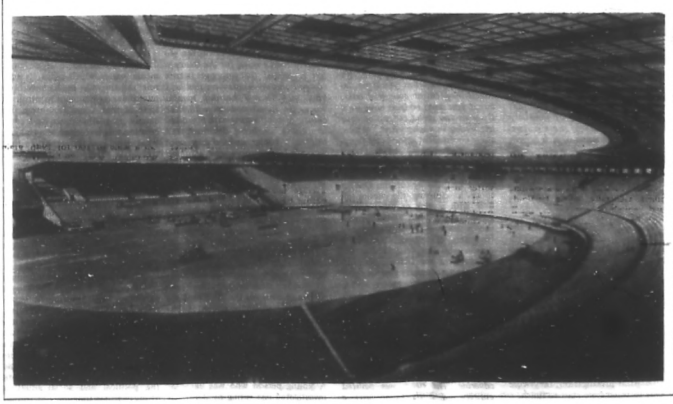
Seven members made reports on the activities in the regions they represented.

Meeting for Okinawa's Tomorrow

A "meeting for Thinking of Okinawa's Tomorrow" was held on Feb. 11 in Naha City with more than 200 attending, in commemoration of this forum under the co-sponsorship of the Okinawa Prefectural Council of Trade Unions, the Okinawa Prefectural People's Council for Normalisation of Japan-Korea Relations and various other organisations.

The meeting was attended by people of all walks of life in Okinawa and members of the groups for the study of the Juche idea who came from all parts of Japan to participate in a "National Forum on the Juche Idea and Okinawa."

Expansion of Maranbong Stadium Under Way



A powerful economic agitation is going on at the expansion project of the Moranbong Stadium in Pyongyang.

Seen here and there at the work sites are countless militant slogans, flash news and other visual agitation materials calling the builders to greater feats.

Artists rush to the scene to encourage them with songs, dances, comic story tellings, dramatic sketches and acrobatic shows.

Bands of mobile agitation teams loudly play tunes here and there.

The construction sites are seething like a crucible and the vast project has entered the last stage in a few months after it started.

Mr. Kim Jong Il put forward the policy of economic agitation by inheriting and developing the anti-Japanese guerrilla-style method of agitation in conformity with the present reality and has wisely led this work.

He, on Feb. 16, gave working guidance to the reconstruction of the Moranbong Stadium now in a final stage.

Torture Tool of Chon Junta: Korea Communique

EDITOR'S NOTE: Despite the Chon junta's claim of a "new era", the use of torture is continuing in south Korea with a vengeance.

The following documents carried in the September 14 - October 26 issues of Korea Communique, an English-language magazine published by the Japan Emergency Conference on Korean Problems, reveal that continued repression and human rights violations, including torture in that part of Asia are severer than those employed by the former strongman Pak Jung Hi.

They also indicate that there is a growing awareness that the juna's ability to employ torture is due in part to the U.S.'s unconditional support.

Creating an Atmosphere of Terror

The 'new era' in south Korean social and political life is said to have obviated the tensions and horrors of the past – namely, the torture employed during Park Chung-hee's roughshod rule. Chun Doo-hwan and his apologists have been hard-pressed to uphold this claim, however, as a stream of reports emanate from Seoul, proving beyond a doubt that far from diminishing, the use of torture in the Republic is proceeding with a vengeance.

Sources in Washington indicate that the subject of torture arose during interim-president Chun's February visit to the White House. Promises were said to have been made at that time that maltreatment of detainees had been discontinued, and would never recur. The U.S. administration's predilection to believe those promises reflects its self-serving, unjustifiable delineation between 'authoritarian' and 'totalitarian' regimes. Its simplistic logic requires that Chun be believed – and supported – despite facts proving that he is lying.

Reprinted below is a document recently received from Christian sources in Seoul. Beyond the repulsive case of popular novelist HAN Soo-san's suffering cited therein – electric shocks administered until blood flowed from his eyesockets – the report shows how a more persistent, brutal, and systematic use of torture than that employed under Park is the reality behind Chun's empty promises.

Standard procedure in the past year – but particularly since Chun's Washington visit – has been to indiscriminately beat from the moment of detention, leading up to serious torture techniques within hours or days, even when there is little or no reason for investigation in the first place. Released without being charged, the tortured victim does not become a statistic of increased numbers of political trials or political prisoners.

There is a growing awareness that the regime's ability to employ torture is due in part to the U.S.'s unconditional support. Said one victim: "The U.S. is making money selling us nuclear power plants, electric-shock crowed control equipment, and torture machines. There is a growing image – feeding the hatred of the U.S. – that we are being tortured by Americans . . ."

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There is a place in Seoul called "Bingo Hotel" – a place of evil reputation. Therein are located the investigation chambers of the Defense Security Command (military intelligence), where Chun Doo-hwan's group of loyal retainers guard his political power.

Only a year ago, before he became president, Chun Doo-hwan was the head of the PSC; now "Bingo Hotel" has become the symbol of the violent politics of the Chun rule. From the time of former president Park Chung-hee up to the present, many prisoners of conscience have suffered harsh and deadly torture in this place. Especially since October 26, 1979, and May 17, 1980; the use of torture has increased and become more brutal daily.

In particular, the recent incident of harsh torture of a writer named Han and five other journalists proves without a doubt the cruelty of the Chun regime.

Last May 29th, novelist Han Soo-san was arrested by the DSC for no reason, and investigated. Mr. Han, whose writings are quite popular among young people, had been writing a novel in installments for the *CHOONG-ANG ILBO* newspaper.

During Han's detention at Bingo Hotel, the interrogation focused on one paragraph of his novel, entitled "Street of Desire." The contents of that paragraph are as follows:

"From time to time we meet a certain face on the television news – a high-ranking government official wearing a funny-looking hat, traveling to the coal mining village or other place in the countryside, where he shakes hands with the womenfolk of the village. As he rides home in his car, he has already mostly forgotten the event; but the villagers were awed and impressed by his visit to see their circumstances; they extended their hands to him with shy smiles . . . it occurred vaguely to Sei-hee that there was quite a bit of similarity between the faces of these miners' wives and the wives of rich houses . . . ."

This is the paragraph accused of desecrating the chief of state.

To call the above excerpt from a popular love story, which was used metaphorically, a "desecration of the chief of state" is absured.

Mr. Han was threatened by the DSC interrogators and ordered to confess the names of "the behind-the-scenes persons" who had instigated him to write the above contents. Finally he was forced, by all kinds of intimidation and torture, to name five present and former *CHOONG-ANG ILBO* reporters as "instigators."

On the next day, May 30th, the five reporters, not knowing the reason why, were taken one by one to Bingo Hotel. There, without any attempt at investigation, they were only tortured from start to finish.

Note: HAN SOO-SAN, novelist described in text on this page as having been tortured brutally for a scene from a recent serialized novel. Born in Kangwon-do in 1946, Mr. Han graduated from Kyunghee University in the English Literature department. He began writing while still a student, and was recognized as an established novelist when he won in literary contests sponsored by the *Dong-A Ilbo* and *Hanguk Ilbo* newspapers in 1972 and 1973, respectively. One of his many stories from the 1970s has been made into a film. Known for his keen perception and elaborate detail, his focus has shifted in recent years from tragedies surrounding love and death, to problems arising from rapid urbanization and industrialism.

After undergoing various forms of cruel torture for four days straight, they were released, but even now – one month later – they are still suffering from disorders as a result of the injuries they received. Reportedly they want and need to convalesce at home, but cannot, because the investigators are demanding that they go to work every day as if nothing had happened. Nevertheless, no matter how the authorities try to conceal the facts of this torture, the story is being spread widely by other people who know about it.

This incident reveals the character of the Chun regime, now depending on the politics of violence, as well as showing the Korean political climate. Here several important points should be made.

First, this event shows that in south Korea today, torture is taking priority over law as the government's political tool. Chun Doo-hwan, having slaughtered many democratic citizens and seized political power, enacted many kinds of evil laws by means of the so-called Legislative Assembly. However, even with these bad laws, the Chun administration cannot control the rising anger of the citizens, and so it is now using torture as its means of rule. Of course, in Korea the DSC is not the only agency using torture: the various agencies under the KCIA (now called the Agency for National Security Planning) and the National Police Headquarters do not lag behind. The following words have been heard by any person who has been investigated by these agencies: *"It's no problem for us to kill you right here. We don't bother whether you'll be declared innocent at your trial later, but if you don't obey us now, we'll fix it so you spend the rest of your life sitting in a wheelchair."* Again, these government agencies by themselves are exposing the fact that the law is only a formality.

Of course, there are many different methods of torture. One of these is clubbing the victim all over with a stick or other implement, till he loses consciousness; this is the most ordinary form, the first step of torture. One young person who was dragged into the basement of the Defense Security Command to endure one week of severe torture before he was released, recalls the nightmare-like week in the following words:

"They shoved me into the car, then immediately covered my eyes with a black cloth and forced my head down against the floor. We arrived at a building and they dragged me inside and loosened the eye covering. The room was painted entirely red. A short time later, a fierce-looking man came into the room, attacked me and beat me violently. Then I was ordered to take off all my clothes. I was then tossed around and beaten by about 20 men. The men who beat me appeared to be experts specializing in the torture of the human body. As one man stood and shouted out orders for the use of different technique, the 'experts' took turns on me. In this way I was systematically beaten over every inch of my body. The time flowed past, as I was in a state of only vague consciousness.

"Now I was dragged into a room with what appeared to be sponge-like walls on all four sides. A menacing-looking man stood in front of me and threatened, 'we are experts, so don't think about escaping, but just take the beating quietly. If you don't, some part of your body will be broken.' I was again whirled around and beaten severely. Dragged from this room to that, for two days straight, without sleep, I was beaten. At times they struck me with their fists; at other times with square-cornered wooden clubs 5-6 cms thick; and sometimes with what seemed to be rubber clubs."

The story told by a young person who was investigated at a police station in Inchon for a week and then released, reveals a similar suicidal tendency by the Korean police to use violence. This young man, like the one described above, was not investigated, but from the time he was dragged into the police station, he was beaten. Continuously for almost a week he was clubbed all over with a 5-6 centimeter-thick, square-cornered wooden stick, so that there was not an undamaged spot anywhere on his body. As a result, he spend days after his release with raw beef slices plastered over his body. (It is said that this treatment makes bruises heal more quickly.)

The following tells about the forms of torture frequently inflicted, starting with a quote from a young person who was investigated at the DSC last spring.

"In a state of semi-consciousness, I was dragged into a place where the water was ankle-deep. Two or three tense-looking men entered, they trampled my body down in the water, striking me wildly. The water was shallow, but they pushed my face under it so I couldn't breathe. I must have lost consciousness suddenly. When I came to my senses, I heard, strangely, the sound of waves. I tried to look around for the source, but I realized that my eyes were covered and my hands were tied behind me. Then I heard a man's voice. He threatened me with the choice of cooperating with him and confessing, or being drowned 'in this sea.' I later realized that this was not the seashore, but another DSC investigation room. Next I was hauled into a basement room where the water was up to my knees. This place was truly like hell. The torturers knocked me down and set to trampling me under the water . . ."

Among the much-used torture methods is the one where the person's hands are manacled behind his head and a thick, square-cornered wooden stick is forced between head and arms. Or the same kind of stick is placed in the crook of the victim's knees, he is forced to squat and the torturers tramp on his thighs. Or the person is prevented from sleeping for days on end. The most terrible method, however, is torture by electricity. A young person who was likewise investigated last spring by the DSC, was subjected to such severe electrical torture that he is still suffering from the effects months later. He recollects his experience as follows:

"Returning to consciousness after the water torture, I looked around the room confusedly and noticed various strange-looking machines. I was stripped naked and hung upside down. Then with a knife they slashed my heels; the blood flowed profusely down my body and even went into my nose. Shortly, they attached something to both my temples and to my fingertips. At that moment, upon receiving the electric shock, I felt my eyes roll backwards and I passed out . . ."

It is usual that people who have been investigated by these agencies and then released are reluctant to talk about their experience. This is not only because of frightening threats of retaliation from the investigative authorities, but even more because they hate to remember their wretched suffering under torture. The *CHOONG-ANG ILBO* reporters are no exception; they do not want to discuss the treatment they underwent. But probably it will be exposed in time that they suffered many kinds of torture, as already one month has passed since their release and still their health is not back to normal.

Recently the Chun government has on several occasions released political prisoners as a conciliatory gesture to domestic and international opinion, and Chun is trying hard to give the impression of great restraint, through substantial reductions in the sentences of prisoners of conscience.

The other face of the Chun administration, however, is its horribly inhuman acts of torture. Against so-called intellectuals the torture is especially harsh and violent. Because they do not want to invite more criticism inside and outside Korea by increasing the number of political prisoners, they are using the tactic of inflicting inhuman physical suffering, thereby making the victims taste humiliation and despair.

In this incident of torture of *CHOONG-ANG ILBO* journalists, it is clear that the authorities used these intellectuals' weak point, that is, their dread of physical pain, thereby manufacturing this atmosphere of terror in all the press and broadcasting circles, so that any anti-government movement whatever is completely blocked in advance.

As is becoming well known, these days in Korea there is no mass media organ which plays its true function. The mass media are all put under government control. In spite of that, Chun Doo-hwan still cannot trust the press, and so is **creating this terrorized atmosphere.** What is more, the reporters mistreated in this incident are for the most part very ordinary people. But for absolutely no reason, out of the clear blue sky, they were struck by the thunderbolt of severe torture.

In conclusion, the most important thing this incident demonstrates is that freedom of speech has been obliterated in south Korea today. As was pointed out above, novelist Han Soo-san, an intellectual, is just an ordinary novelist with no particular anti-government consciousness. The problem novel also, being a love story, contained no anti-government element whatsoever. But in this novel, a paragraph of vague reference rubbed a powerful person the wrong way, and his intolerance in this case represents the political and social situation of south Korea today.

Forcing 'Confession' by "Barbecuing the Chicken..."

Recent issues of the COMMUNIQUE have had to focus on a disturbing underpinning of Chun Doohwan's lordship over life in the Republic of Korea; ***the systematic use of physical and psychological torture in the course of interrogations.*** *Macabre as these stories are, we are compelled to continue carrying them until torture has been eliminated – not in word but in deed. Section 3 of the account below gives details on ten specific forms of torture employed on those detected in the following incident.*

TORTURE OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN THE "R.O.K."

I. Inchon Cheil Church Incident

On May 21-23, 1981, for three days, the university students' department of Cheil Church in Inchon City held a mass Mission Conference for Youth, with the theme "Church of the People, Faith of Action." On the evening of the first day, following a lecture by Dr. Han Wansang (former professor of Seoul National University), there was a spontaneous demonstration by some of the young people which resulted in about 20 persons being detained over the next five days.

(1) Cases of Detention

Around 9:30 p.m., some 500 youths from among the approximately 1,000 who had gathered earlier for Dr. Han's lecture, peacefully demonstrated in the street. They linked arms and marched from the gate of Insung Girl's High School to the front of Chookhyun Elementary School, singing and shouting slogans ("Down with fascist Chun Doo-hwan!", "Guarantee the three rights of laborers!").

The demonstration was not preplanned; it occurred naturally when the large crowd of youths and students–already feeling kinship through shared sympathies–flocked out from the lecture at the same time.

Shortly after the demonstration spread to the front of the elementary school, its ranks were greatly swelled by many high school students from Insung Girls' High School, Chemulpo High School and Inil Girls' High School, where classes were under suspension by the authorities.

As police cameras flashed and the riot police moved in on the marchers, the demonstration was blocked. Two students, SONG Young-soo (Inha University, 3rd year) and KONG Oo-gyung (1st year student at graduate school of Presbyterian Seminary; manager of Kwang-Ya Book Store), were arrested by plainclothes police who were mingled with the crowd of young people, and who recognized the two from their past surveillance of them. Both were detained at Inchon Police Station.

SONG Young-soo, at the front of the demonstration, had led the young people in a chorus of songs and shouted demands, and KANG Oo-gyung, seeing that the demonstration was about to be broken up, had shouted to the others, "Down this side street!" Mr. KANG also allegedly showered curses on the riot police.

As KANG Oo-gyung was being escorted away, he hastily pulled out from his back pocket a paper bearing the name "National Democratic Youth Federation," and discarded it. Another student (Inha University 3rd year, member of Cheil Church, name unconfirmed) saw this and immediately informed a detective.

At almost the same time as this was happening, LEE Min-oo (chairman, Inchon Christian Youth Council, and teacher at Insung Girls' High School), who had previously drawn the authorities' attention as a leader in the Inchon church youth movement, was detained.

At about 10 p.m., three or four plain-clothes detectives raided Kwang-Ya Book Store, arrested LEE Saeng-oo (clerk at the book store and younger brother of LEE Min-oo) and KIM Jae-bong (Puchon Technical College 2nd year), and confiscated printed materials made by the Chongye (Peace Market) Textile Workers' Union and the National Democratic Youth Federation, as well as many books.

The police were said to be taking a serious view of the contents of the **National Democratic Youth Federation** material, interpreting it as anti-government, anti-state and in violation of the National Security Law (which forbids defamation of the head of state, among its many restrictions).

At the place of the demonstration, with its breakup imminent, CHUNG Hee-yoon (chairman of East Inchon Methodist Youth Association, and an employee in the office of the Korean National Railroad) shouted, "East Inchon church youth, meet at Kyunggi Tearoom!" The plainclothes police, hearing this, headed to the tearoom to question all the young people there. In this process they detained SUH Kwang-suk (Seoul Methodist Seminary 2nd year), finding in his possession a book with the handwritten remarks on one page: **"Remembering October 26"** [the date of Park Chung-hee's assassination], and "Sons of Darkness." Mr. CHUNG (who had shouted the name of the meeting place) was detained the next morning at about 10 a.m., as he was returning home from night work.

A number of other young people were detained in succession, including LEE Han-sup (chairman of West Inchon Methodist Youth Association).

(2) Process of Investigation

On May 21, the date of their detention, the young people were beaten and tortured all night long by investigators at Inchon Police Station. They were then charged with violating various laws as follows:

LEE Min-oo
Leading a demonstration, preparing and possessing seditious printed material.
KANG Oo-gyung
Leading a demonstration, possession of seditious printed material.
SONG Young-soo
Inciting a demonstration.
KIM Jae-bong
Inciting a demonstration, possession of seditibus material.
SUH Kwang-suk
Inciting a demonstration, possession of seditious material.
LEE Saeng-oo
Possession of seditious printed material, sale of seditious books.

From the evening of the 21st to the 23rd, the detained youths were **completely denied food and water** (over a span of four mealtimes), and for two consecutive days and nights they were **not allowed to sleep even a moment,** while they underwent interrogation.

The investigation process was characterized by its focus on KANG Oo-gyung's activities from the time of his college days to the opening of Kwang-Ya Book Store, based on police/KCIA observations; the investigators apparently had decided that the bookstore was the organizing and contact place for youth and students in Inchon.

In particular, the investigators tried to get the important details they needed through LEE Saeng-oo, a clerk at the book shop. Using materials confiscated from the bookstore as well as their own concoctions, they forced Mr. LEE and the other detainees to "confess" the names of persons related to the Chongye Textile Workers and the National Democratic Youth Federation, persons who had bought banned books and persons who frequented the bookstore. With their seizure of the printed material by the National Democratic Youth Federation, severe torture was inevitable.

Through this process, **the interrogators fabricated an account of the demonstration as a pre-planned event,** when in fact it occurred spontaneously, and they made up a chart of the detainees' supposed positions in the (fabricated) organization as illustrated below:

Person in charge (the person in Seoul who transmitted the printed materials to Inchon)
↓
LEE Min-oo (person in charge of the Inchon area)
↓
KANG Oo-gyung (leader)
↓
CHUNG Hee-yoon
KIM Jae-bong
SUH Kwang-suk ("movers")
SONG Young-soo
LEE Saeng-oo

So far, the interrogations had been carried out by the intelligence bureau of Inchon Police Station; now the six young people were moved to the criminal investigation bureau of that station, and the contents of the investigation were expanded by another degree.

On May 27, five persons – LEE Min-oo, KANG Oo-gyung, CHUNG Hee-yoon, KIM Jae-bong, and SUH Kwang-suk – were served with warrants, and two persons – SONG Young-soo and LEE Saeng-oo – were told they would be released.

On May 28, SONG Young-soo was freed, but on the pretext of having him meet KIM Jungtaik to confirm the facts, LEE Saeng-oo was left under detention at the intelligence bureau. The fact was, **there were still visible marks on his body of the horrible torture he had suffered.** The police plastered about one-and-a-half kilograms of raw beef daily on the wounds on his thighs, and after one more week he was released.

On June 1, the remaining five youths, together with four Inha University students, were sent to the prosecutor, and were imprisoned at Inchon's Hagik-dong Prison.

On June 20, LEE Min-oo, KANG Oo-gyung, and CHUNG Hee-yoon were officially indicted, and KIM Jae-bong and SUH Kwang-suk were released by postponement of indictment.

II. Circumstances of Investigation of Christian Students At Inha University

On May 21, one member of the intelligence bureau of Inchon Police Station (in charge of campus intelligence-collection) recognized abovementioned detainee SONG Youngsoo as an Inha University student, and took the opportunity to try to settle several unresolved past campus incidents (November 1980 campus leaflet; March 18, 1981 "anti-fascist struggle" leaflet; and May 18, 1981 large-scale wall-painting).

SONG Young-soo could not stand the torture, and early in the morning of the 22nd, told the investigators, "If you ask HAH Jongkang (Inha University 4th year), you can find out." So HAH Jong-kang was detained that same afternoon at 12:30, at the back gate of Inha University.

At around 11 p.m. that night, HAH Jong-kang confessed, "I don't know about the other things, but I made the March 18 leaflet. KIM Jong-eun (Inha University 2nd year) suggested it."

On the 23rd, at about 1 a.m., KIM Jong-eun was detained, and at 11 a.m. his investigation was declared finished. At 11 p.m., however, the interrogation began anew, and at last KIM Jong-eun, unable to withstand the torture, told the truth, "HAH Jong-kang didn't do it. MOON Kwang-suk (Inha University 2nd year), IM Jong-sang (Inha University 2nd year) and myself did it."

At approximately 1 a.m. on the 24th, MOON Kwang-suk was detained, then IM Jung-sang.

KIM Jong-eun was finally forced by his intense physical suffering to tell his torturer, "Ask HAN Tae-hwan about it–he may know."

So HAN Tae-hwan (Inha University 3rd year, who had been waiting at home with stiffened resolve) was picked up at 6 p.m. on the 25th, and confessed that he was the principal offender in the March 18 leafletting incident. However, MIN Young-soo was responsible for the paint incident, he said. (MIN Young-soo is now in hiding.)

On the 29th, warrants were served on HAN Tae-hwan, KIM Jong-eun, MOON Kwang-suk, and IM Jung-sang.

On the 31st, HAH Jong-kang was released. He had confessed during investigation to having gotten 50 copies of a leaflet on the Chongye Textile Workers from a staff person at the Inchon Urban Industrial Mission office.

On June 1, four persons – HAN Tae-hwan, KIM Jong-eun, MOON Kwang-suk, and IM Jung-sang, together with the five persons arrested in connection with the demonstration at Cheil Church, were sent to the prosecution and moved to Inchon Hagik-dong Prison. On June 20th, all nine of these persons were indicted.

> ". . . Being hung upside down like this, with hands and feet tied together, the victim's body was spun around and around, and water was forced into his mouth in this upside-down position. The police called this treatment BARBECUED CHICKEN."

III. Methods of Torture Used

(1) The seven persons detained in connection with Cheil Church were *denied food and water completely* over a span of 4 mealtimes, and they were not allowed to sleep at all for 2 days and nights.

(2) The police typically started the torture with the **leg-stick treatment,** putting a billy club in the crook of the person's knees and forcing him to kneel. Then, either by trampling on his thighs with booted heels, or by 1 or 2 policemen's standing on the ends of the billy club, pressure was exerted to cause intense pain.

(3) The detainee's waist was tied with rope and his wrists tied together above his head, then the 2 ropes were connected tightly and pulled down from the back, forcing the person to bend backwards at an unnatural and painful angle. In the meantime, his elbows were also tied together and forced into parallel position at the back of his head. **The torturers then banged on the tightly-pulled rope with a stick, causing a sensation similar to electric shock throughout the body.** Later, when the rope was pulled, there were snapping sounds from the person's body.

(4) The person's hands and feet were tied together, and a billy club forced into the crook of the knees, causing severe pain. (The victims said they thought their knee bones would break out of their sockets.) Then the person was strung up, suspended between 2 desks, which was again agonizingly painful to the extent that those experiencing it said they expected their bones to be forced out of their sockets at the shoulders. Being hung upside down, the victim's body was spun around and around, and **water was forced into his mouth in this upside-down position.** The police called this treatment **"barbecued chicken."**

(5) A towel was used to bind the person's wrists behind his back, then handcuffs were locked on over the towel, and the person was **suspended in mid-air** between 2 cabinets until he responded to the interrogators' satisfaction. They call this **"airplane ride."**

(6) A policeman's club was placed in the crook of the person's knees, *he was forced to kneel, and his* hands were tied with a sash behind his head. His arms were pulled all the way backward and a police club was forced into the crooks of the elbows, then the club was twisted back and forth. At the same time, **the torturers would tramp full force on the ends of the club** which was in the crook of the victim's knees, or jump with booted feet on his thighs. This is called **"putting in the hairpin."**

(7) **Leg-screw torture:** Following the trying of the person into a chair with his hands manacled behind him, he was made to cross his knees. Then billy clubs were stuck between his legs and twisted to cause severe pain.

(8) The person was tied into a chair the same as the above, then he was beaten again and again, dozens of times, concentrating on certain parts of his body – head, knees, lower legs, ankles, wrists – over long periods. Following this torture, even when prodded only slightly with a police club, the person experienced bone-deep pain.

(9) A billy club was placed vertically against the detainee's back and he was made to lean against the wall, then he was kicked in the chest repeatedly.

(10) In the case of LEE Saong-oo, as soon as the decision was made to book him without physical detention, the police – in an attempt to get rid of the marks of his torture (his legs were completely black from his hips to his ankles) – bought raw beef and used it as a dressing, plastering the thinly sliced meat over him twice a day (about 1.5 kilograms daily). In order to court his favor, the police took him to their homes in turn, fed and bathed him, and even drove him by car for a forced viewing of "Kukpyung '81" (the government's cultural extravaganza at Yoido Plaza).

[*Note: The above persons are still being detained as of August 20, and it is expected that all will undergo court trial.*]

S. Korean Monthly "Sin Tong-A"

"Why Are We Dancing Talchum Dances?"

People True Creators of National Culture

In the 1970s talchum or mask dances became popular among university students in south Korea because of their desire to learn from the people and live with the people. Hwang Son Jin, a folklorist, wrote in the November, 1980 issue of the south Korean monthly "Sin Tong-A", entitled "Why Are We Dancing Talchum (mask) Dances?" Hwang Son Jin regards talchum dances as an expression of people's feelings and finds in them the power of the people who has been at the base of the history of the people.

"Talchum" means mask dances (tal=mask, chum=dance).

Introduced here is a first part of a summary of the article by folklorist Hwang Son Jin.

In 1970, "the society for the research of mask dances of Seoul university" was organized for the purpose of "learning original forms of mask dances and creatively inheriting them." After its organization, studies of folk art spread widely to other universities. Among the studies were those on *pansori* (songs–narratives–of dramas as recited by performers), instrumental music of peasants and folk songs. *Talchum* dances are now a focal point of culture on the campus. *Talchum* dances are popular in communities and among workers. The dances are now playing a central role in the cultural movement.

National Independence

Why are they so mad about *talchum* dances? The reasons may be the following four:

First, people like to dance *talchum* dances as a pastime;

Second, they regard *talchum* dances as an art and are fascinated by the artistic character of *talchum* dances;

Third, they regard *talchum* dances as a sort of acts to establish national identity and seek their own roots;

They are fed up with foreign culture and think that our nation has its own excellent culture. From this viewpoint, they take the same attitude to *talchum* dances as they do to ancient court music, court dances, porcelains of the Li dynasty and the Koryo dynasty.

". . . . We began to pay attention to our own culture. First of all, music and drama. We are seeking our own things not those from foreign countries . . . . We are now creating our own culture." *(A pamphlet on a performance of folkways of C church)*

Escape from Cultural Imperialism

Fourth, they view society from the people's standpoint and recreate the popular features of *talchum* dances on the basis of the thinking that a true national culture should be based on popular culture. The tasks they set to themselves are to overcome cultural imperialism, to inherit tradition correctly, to focus on and promote national consciousness, and to overcome alienation of man in a mechanical civilization.

Folkways are not a curio in a museum but living and moving tradition. As folkways are of the people who have formed basic culture of the nation, these have been inherited consistently without losing their power.

". . . . This is a work to identify myself and at once my work to seek the main arteries which have inherited the potential energy of the nation. The folkways mean life, living conditions of the people, who have lived and are living beside us, or life itself. In order not to lose new energy, it is necessary for us to grasp the collective will inherent in the people and to recognize that collective will as soil on which to develop our own culture.

For the sake of the living of the nation it is certainly necessary to develop and expand community consciousness and seek to nurture it correctly. For this purpose, it is necessary to express our sound spirit with a critical attitude, cool-headed historical consciousness and constantly in an experimental spirit. Now is the time when we should boldly cast off our old skin eagerly and steadily and overcome play of ideas to provide a dancing ground where the people will be united." *(In a pamphlet on the Iris Festival dances of the Agricultural College of Seoul University, in 1978)*

Of course, we want to have the passionate souls of artists. *Talchum* dances, which we have learned, will satisfy all our needs and we would like to show ourselves entirely, genuinely and modestly." *(At a performance commemorating the Iris Festival at Seoul University)*

"In our life, in the life our ancestors have experienced and in the life we are leading there is tenacity and forms which should be inherited even if the foreign forces approach . . . . It is in the *talchum* dances the life of the masses throbs." *(Student K of Hanyang University)*

The will of young people to fulfill their mission is expressed not only in their work to correctly and creatively inherit people's traditional culture. They are beginning to study *talchum* dances from the standpoints of anthropology, religion, art, play, literature, folklore, history, philosophy, economics, and so on.

Almost all phenomena and movements reflect social and economic structures of an age and historical reality, and are limited by these conditions, irrespective of the personal intentions of people concerned.

The *talchum* dances are also not an exception.

Due to the unbalanced development of the country, interference by foreign forces and complicated social conditions, which have continued for more than 100 years since Korea opened doors to foreign trade, young people began to develop a movement to seek their identity. In this situation *talchum* dances are newly recognized as a movement.

Urban *talchum* dances developed in the middle period of the Li dynasty. The dances developed by the progressive forces of those days–merchants and officers– who strived to give expression to the contradictions of the feudal society.

What of the *talchum* dances captivates young people?

First, unlike existing arts, which seek to find truth about individuals, *talchum* dances express truth about society. *Talchum* dances vitriolically expose hypocrisy, disguise, images of the real man and society and make people realize truth. In *talchum* dances, the *Maltuk* (a male servant of an aristocrat plays the role of disclosing the cruelties of aristocrats) strips the aristocrat naked and discloses his hypocrisy; the *Chuibal* (merchant, who believes in money) ridicules and falsify the religious falsehoods of Lao-tze and Chung-tze and openly admires the honest life of the people and their instinctive demands. The people of today are also in search of people like the *Maltuk* and *Chuibal* types.

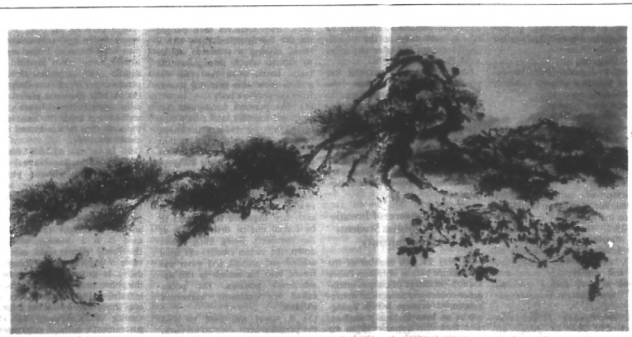
Talchum dances influence people, young and old, who always want to know truth.

Second, *talchum* dances are a medium by which people can enjoy in groups. There is no bitterness or ill-feeling among the people dancing *talchum* dances. When life is bitter and hard, people act as follows: Some yield to sorrow and pain and become pessimistic; others overcome sorrow and bitterness with a sense of humor and satire and face their future with hopes.

Laughter in *talchum* dances is of the latter. Laughter in *talchum* dances is the laughter of those who have overcome sorrow, and encourage people not to yield to sorrow. This is the wisdom of our nation.

Third, *talchum* dances start and finish extemporaneously. There is no special play for them. Those who gather on a dancing ground are all heroes and heroines. The dances are danced as they want.

(To be continued)



Korean Paintings "Sprawling Pine Trees of Mt. Paektu"

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

Jan. 25-26

* The delegation of the WPK headed by Kim Yong Sun visited Belgium.

Jan. 27-28

* A delegation of the WPK headed by Kim Yong Sun visited Netherlands.

Feb. 1

* Nicolae Ceausescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Romanian Socialist Republic, met in Predeal the delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea headed by Li Yong Su, Chairman of its Central Committee.

* Saye Zerbo, Head of the State and Chairman of the Military Committee of Rederessment for National Progress of the Republic of Upper Volta, met Kim Ryong Yong, DPRK ambassador to Upper Volta.

Delcaring full support to the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo put forward by President Kim Il Sung, he said that the U.S. troops must be withdrawn from south Korea, its society democratized and the policy of anti-communist confrontation renounced.

He expressed satisfaction over the favorable development of the relations between Upper Volta and Korea.

Feb. 2

* A government trade delegation of the Polish People's Republic headed by Gwiazda Wladislaw, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, arrived in Pyongyang by air.

* Abdus Sattar, President of Bangladesh, met the delegation of the WPK headed by Kim Yong Nam, Member of the Political Bureau, and Secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK.

The Bangladesh president said that he was well aware of the successes achieved by the Korean people in the revolution and construction under the wise guidance of President Kim Il Sung.

Feb. 3

* A trade union delegation of Korea headed by Mun Byong Rok left Pyongyang by air to attend the 10th World Trade Union Congress to be held in Cuba.

Feb. 4

* Stephen Mganga, editor of "Uhuru," the organ of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

* President of the Yemen Arab Republic Ali Abudullah Saleh met So Jong Won, DPRK ambassador to the YAR.

The Yemen president said he was convinced that the friendly relations between the people of the Yemen Arab Republic and the Korean people under the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung would develop favorably in the future, too.

Feb. 8

* A Korean government trade delegation headed by Pang Tae Ryul left Pyongyang by plane for a visit to Hungary.

* A group of Polish Instrumental Soloists headed by Adam Kepinski arrived in Pyongyang by air.

* A delegation of the State Film Committee under the Council of Ministers of the USSR headed by S.V. Pavlenok, vice-chairman of the committee, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

* A health delegation of the German Democratic Republic headed by Konstantin Spies, Vice-Minister of Public Health, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Feb. 9

* A government delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by Ali Akbar Parvarshi, Minister of Education, arrived in Pyongyang by air. (KCNA)

S. Korean Cartoons on Prices, Taxes Hikes

東亞戲評 白寅洙

"Don't lie down any longer?"

TONG-A ILBO, JAN. 15, '82

A most recurrent topic of January south Korean cartoons is a widespread popular dissatisfaction with the poor economic performance, shown in prices and taxes hikes.

每日戲評

"It's not a restorative but a thin gruel of rice."

TAEGU MAEIL, JAN. 15, '82

洛東선생 유동耕

TAEGU MAEIL, JAN. 26, '82

1. "Registration fees were increased for junior and senior high schools."

2. "Dear, bring me salt."

3. "What are you doing?"

4. "It's the first increase in 1982. So, ..."
(A pinch of salt is scattered to drive away the evil.)

朝鮮漫評 吳龍

"Gruel instead of a shot"

CHOSUN ILBO, JAN. 15, '82

오로지선생 지성훈

CHUNG-CHONG ILBO, JAN. 26, '82

1. "Payment"
(president)

2. "have been hiked."

3. "So, my salary should be . . . . . too . . . . ."

4. "Is that a mental hospital? Here is a patient in my company. . . ."

朝鮮漫評 吳龍

"A farsighted national policy"
(Cigarette taxes are levied partly as educational tax.)

CHOSUN ILBO, JAN. 31, '82

S. Koreans Work Longest: ILO

Statistics compiled recently by the International Labor Organization indicated that south Koreans have the longest work week while the average workweek in most countries has been decreasing during the past decade.

A survey showed that south Korea was a "notable exception" to the countries for which data were available.

According to the survey, south Korean women worked 53.5 hours and men 52.8 hours per week in 1980, an "internationally unmatched weekly total of 53.1 hours." This compared with 31 and 25.8 hours for Norwegian men and women.

The statistics indicated the plight of south Korean workers and ordinary people.

The factors which were responsible for Seoul's "high economic growth," are backfiring, with the export-led development policy bankrupt and inflation accelerated. In addition, a new economic burden falls on the working people and ordinary people due to the so-called economic measures for the 1980 Olympiad, including "the olympic fund-raising campaign."

There is no change in the mechanism that the main victims of economic difficulty are always workers and ordinary people.

Nature of "Olympic Fund-Raising Campaign"

The Jan. 18 issue of the south Korean mass-circulation daily Dong-A Ilbo published a letter to the editor of the paper, written by Mr. Li Bom Su, who charged the Chun junta with fleecing workers through "the olympic fund-raising campaign," after making themselves a laughing stock by crying for an "olympic new village movement."

Mr. Li said that at a factory in Kumi, North Kyongsang Prov., the authorities forced 170 or more workers to prolong the working day to take away 285,000 won (one $ is approximately 710 won) from the workers as an "olympic fund" and decided to raise a fund of 30 million won by March 1988.

In addition, the authorities plan to expand this form of pillage to all industries of south Korea.

In the letter, Mr. Li said: "When we take into consideration the fact that the real wages of our working people have steadily decreased, the working day has been lengthened, and allowances including retirement allowances are in areas of payment, I can not but doubt the effectiveness of the "olympic fund-raising campaign."

Misery of Women Workers

The misery of women workers graphically illustrate the plight of working people in south Korea.

The struggles of the female workers of Y.H. Industry and Chonggye Textile Corp. demanding improved working conditions are flesh in our memory.

Women workers are mainly employed in simple labor at cotton mills, electric appliances factories, plywood factories, shoe-making factories, printing shops, paints factories and so forth.

In the workshops they are plagued by noise and mercury poisoning and suffer from respiratory and lung diseases because of dust and various harmful organic substances.

The Jan. 23 issue of daily Chosun Ilbo said that harmful organic substances top the tolerable limit ten times at printing shops, 8.5 times at paints factories, 6 times at shoe-making factories, and 5 times at chemical paste factories, where many women workers are employed.

The amount of ventilation is one-fifth of the standard at shoe-making factories and less than a half at plywood, paints and battery factories. As a result, most women workers suffer from various occupational diseases or from poor health.

The wage scale of female workers is woefully lower than the male workers'.

Even according to data published by the Office of Labor on Jan. 10, the average wage of women workers last year was no more than 42.4 percent of the male workers'. It is much lower than in other capitalist countries. (The Jan. 11 issue of daily Dong-A Ilbo)

Growing Unemployment

The working people see a growing threat to their living in the increasing unemployment rate.

The Jan. 14 issue of Dong-A Ilbo quoted statistics released by the Office of Labor as saying that the number of enterprises shrank by more than 2,000 in south Korea last year.

The statistics show that over 80,000 workers were thrown into the army of the unemployed from those enterprises alone. A number of relatively big enterprises were included among those closed-down businesses.

The number of bankruptcies was the largest since 1976, the paper added.

Frequent bankruptcies of enterprises, especially minor concerns, produce a growing number of unemployed people.

The Jan. 9 issue of Dong-A Ilbo criticized the tax levies by the Chon junta saying that the heavy tax has driven minor enterprises into bankruptcies. The paper wrote: "The tax collection offensive by the authorities who pay no heed to the financial straits makes their business zeal run off." It recalled a wholesale pillage campaign waged by the junta over the last few months to attain the tax collection goal for last year.

According to statistics compiled by the Office of Labor, the jobless rate is 6.3 percent in the fourth quarter of last year, or 802,000 people. In other words, one per cent accounts for 127,000 unemployed people. On this basis, the unemployment rate of 11.8 percent to 15.7 percent represents something between 1.5 million and 2 million jobless workers.

Low Wages

Low wages are a constant source of labor grievances.

The low-wage policy followed by the Pak Jung Hi junta and also by the Chon junta was one of the main reasons that south Korean exports were able to achieve short-lived international competitiveness.

According to statistics made public by the Office of Labor in Mar., 1981, the average wage of south Korean workers in the period from 1976 to 1980 was about one-fifth that of Japanese workers. And despite wage increases in the last few years, averaging 30 percent, this ratio has not fundamentally changed. The share of wages in the total costs is only two-thirds of what it is in Japan.

In 1981, wages rose by 23.9 percent but real wages actually decreased by 4.5 percent. (The Jan. 29 issue of Chosun Ilbo)

Skyrocketing Prices

The skyrocketing prices of commodities make it difficult for the people to make a living.

In 1980, retail prices advanced 34.6 percent and wholesale prices 44.2 percent in south Korea.

The junta jerked up public service fees on more than 10 occasions last year to make the prices of living necessaries rise as much as 30 percent. In particular, the first 10 months of last year, the price of rice rose 36.4 percent and that of other foods 36.6 percent. The meat price went up 68 percent at a maximum and the briquette price 20 percent. (The Jan. 10 issue of Dong-A Ilbo)

At the end of last year the junta upped the water rates 20 percent, the price of so-called "government grain" 1,600 won per straw bag and various service fees and commodity prices. The cement price was raised 10 percent. As a result, the south Korean people had to bear an additional burden of over 2,000 won a month per head.

Price hikes continue this year. The junta decided to raise the price of fertilizers 14 percent and that of agricultural chemicals 8.5 percent on an average from January. Of late, the Bank of Korea admitted that there is no possibility of price stabilization this year, too.

Increasing Industrial Accidents

Due to poor safety facilities, industrial accidents have repeatedly occurred and threatened workers.

The Feb. 6 issue of Hanguk Ilbo stressed that measures must be taken to prevent industrial accidents.

According to the paper, in the first 8 months of last year, over 800 people died in industrial accidents. Such accidents claimed over 10,400 lives in the last 10 years.

Noting that these accidents are unending because enterprises have taken no measures to prevent them, the paper said: "In the manufacturing industries where labor accidents are most frequent, production equipment and facilities are still very backward, and are causing a number of accidents.

A survey conducted by the Office of Labor on Feb. 10 said that upwards of 116,690 labor accidents occurred in south Korea during last year. They left more than 1,290 dead, over 14,800 crippled and above 101,830 injured.

This means that a daily average of some 320 labor accidents occurred, entailing 323 casualties. These figures of accidents and casualties are higher than in the previous year.

(Continued from page 1)

Communications said in the statement that to rejoin the severed nerves of the country and restore national bonds at an early date is the most ardent desire of the communication workers as well as of the entire compatriots.

The MC spokesman emphasized that the ministry put forward various reasonable proposals including one for rejoining the severed communication nerves of the north and the south and realizing correspondence and exchange of mail to accelerate reunification of the country.

GFTUK

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, outlining its efforts to materialize economic collaboration and interchange with the south, said it had repeatedly proposed to realize mutual contact and visits for the sake of cooperation between trade union organizations and unity of the working class in the north and the south.

LSWYK

The League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, referring to its efforts to put forward the proposals for a meeting of youths and students of the north and the south for national reunification, called Seoul's talk about "peaceful reunification" as "ridiculous," saying that it is increasing tension by staging massive combined military maneuvers dubbed "Team Spirit '82" together with the U.S. authorities.

MCA

Supporting the 100-man gathering idea, the MCA spokesman said: "It is an ardent desire of our writers and artists to sing songs, write works, create movies and dramas and fine art works in a unified fatherland, and thus to make a contribution to a uniform development of national culture."

The spokesman emphasized MCA's efforts made to put forward a number of proposals for collaboration and exchange between the north and the south in the fields of culture from the first days of the division of the country.

KJU

Stressing the KJU's consistent stand for reunifying the divided country, the spokesman said that the journalists' union has proposed many a time, to enable journalists and men of the press in the two parts of the country to travel each other's parts to cover news, open journalists' missions or branch offices of newspapers in Pyongyang and Seoul and exchange publications.

AC

Noting that the division of the country bars the uniform development of the north and the south in the agricultural domain, too, a spokesman of the Agricultural Commission recalled a number of proposals the AC had made for north-south collaboration in the agricultural domain in the last period, such as jointly undertaking irrigation projects in south Korea.

Korean Resident in U.S. Discloses:

Truth of "Hong Son Gil Case"

A Korean resident in the U.S. told a reporter of Japan's Kyodo News Service on Jan. 31 that the "spy case" faked up by the south Korean "National Security Planning Agency" last November is a "sheer lie."

During his stay in Japan, the Korean compatriot named Paul Chang (Korean name—Chang Gyong Hwan), who was charged by the Chon junta with being one of the wirepuller of the "spy case," told the Japanese reporter that Mr. Hong Son Gil, a Korean resident in the U.S. now in jail on "espionage charges," is innocent and the "spy case" is a pure fabrication concocted by the Chon junta to prevent Korean compatriots in the U.S. from visiting the DPRK.

The so-called "Hong Son Gil case" is the first "spy case" faked up by the junta against a Korean resident in the U.S.

According to an announcement made by the "National Security Planning Agency," Mr. Hong lived in Los Angeles as an engineer for an air plane company and visited the DPRK on June 13 last year in company with Mr. Chang and was "indoctrinated." In the DPRK, the "NSP" stated, he also received $1,500 as an operational fund to "educate" Koreans in the U.S.

On July 13 the same year when he visited Seoul, Mr. Hong was arrested on "espionage charges" of attempting to collect information in south Korea.

In the interview with the Kyodo reporter, Mr. Chang pointed out that Mr. Hong visited the DPRK to meet his family and relatives, from whom he had been separated since the Korean War, and said:

"The movement to find families and relatives living in the DPRK, from whom they were separated during the war, has gained momentum among the Koreans in the U.S. and those visiting there have grown in number.

"Since 1974 when I became convinced that the north and the south should have brisk interchange and a dialogue, I have helped compatriots visit the DPRK, and now I am Chairman of the 'Committee for Cooperation in Finding Separated Families' in the U.S."

Hating their visit to the DPRK more and more, he stated, the south Korean authorities faked up the "Hong Son Gil case" and heaped malicious abuses upon him as "an operative" of the DPRK for having helped Mr. Chang meet his family and relatives in the DPRK.

Mr. Chang disclosed the fact that he had been detained for seventy days by the KCIA on "espionage charge" in February 1980 when he visited Seoul to work upon the authorities, urging them to start a dialogue with the DPRK.

"I was forced by the KCIA to sign a written confession admitting I was a member of the Workers' Party of Korea and had relations with Mr. Kim Dae Jung," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Chang made public an open letter in the name of the "Committee for Cooperation in Finding Separated Families" in the U.S., exposing the truth about the "Hong Son Gil case."

In the open letter, he said "Hong Son Gil paid a visit to the DPRK with aid and guidance to meet his family members and relatives and had no other purpose in view. Therefore, after returning to the U.S., he visited south Korea, too, without hesitation."

Pointing to the Chon junta's charge that Mr. Hong received from someone an "operational fund" amounting to $1,500, Mr. Chang said: "How can one conduct espionage activity with $1,500? I can not but feel indignant at the fact that a government organ fabricated such a preposterous lie to murder honest people."

He expressed indignation at the junta who charged him with being a "spy," and declared that his "movement to helping find dispersed families is a humanitarian one aimed at helping put an end to the tragedy of the national division."

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